# **IOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION**

# Slain pastor memorialized in Illinois

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MARYVILLE, II. (BP and level reports) —
The widow of Fred Winters, senior pastor of
First Church, Maryville, II., who was gunned
down March 8 in the church's pulpit while
preaching in the church's early worship service, told 1,900 people who attended his
funeral 'hat the day he died — March 8 —
was "celebration day" for her husband and
that she refuses to harbor hatred.

"Fred and I talked so many times about
how God is at work here in this church
doing incredible things," she said during
Winters' March 13 funeral at the church.

"Nothing has changed. Our vision and
purpose still remains the same."

Speaking for 20 minutes during a twohour funeral service, Cindy Winters said,

"I refuse to let Satan win. ...He's not
going to steal my joy. He's not going to steal
my desire to spread God's Word.

"I'm not going to hate and I will work
to carry out the mission of this church and
I know all of you will too, and I'm not
going to survive this thing — I'm going to
be a better pyrson because of this thing."

She quoted one of her two daughters,
ages 13 and 11 years, as saying. "I want
to be just like my daddy. I hope the man
who did this learns to love Jesus."

Winters refuted a note the man accused of
the shooting left on his caiendar labeling
March 8 as "death day." She said, "Sunday
was not death day,
but celebration day
— the best day of
Fred's life. On

— the best day of Fred's life. On Sunday, my hus-band did not die, but got a promo-tion, as she pointed upward to heaven.

The words of the theme song from the television show Jeffersons, referring to "movin on up," played throughout the church building as the congregation stood and applauded. Terry

sedlacek has been charged with mur-der in the death of Winters aggravated assault for his alleged knife attack on two church members who attempted to subdue him after his semiautomatic handgun jammed. Sedlacek was not a member of the church, and no motive has been established for the shooting spree.



NTERS REMEMBERED — An estimated 1,900 people attended the funeral March 13 Fred Winters pastor of First Church, Maryville, II. Winters was shot dead in the pulof the church March 8 while he was preaching in the church's early worship service. Photo courtesy of Robert Cohen/St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

The 900-seat sanctuary was so full that another 1,000 people overflowed into the church's gymnasium. The service could also be viewed on the Internet.

Cindy Winters told those in attendance a number of humorous stories about Winters that illustrated his reputation for being

thrifty, athletic, intelligent, and passionate about his ministry.

"Fred loved being a pastor. He had a pastor's heart. When you hurt, he hurt, and when you were happy, he was happy. He never got tired of being your pastor," she said.

Fred Winters' brother and father-in-law

also spoke during the service, while three former staff members brought messages.

Bob Dickerson, pastor of First Church, Marion, II., who first met Winters in sem-inary, held his Bible aloft and said, "If Fred were here, he would speak from the Word of God, so that's what I will do." Dickerson read from Genesis 50:20, quoting Joseph speaking to his brothers, "What you intended for harm, God intended for good to accomplish the saving of many lives."

"Fred was intense about sharing

Christ, He wanted everybody to know nd good will come if jammed. or 1,000 people, or 10,000 people, will help others find God," because of what has happened, Dickerson said.

"Evil did not take Fred Winters' life, because he gave it to Christ many years ago. Evil did not stop the message that Jesus saves," Dickerson said.

Adam Cruse, pastor of First Church in Mt. Zion, II., another former staff member at First Church, Maryville, said Winters "was always there for us. He was a rock for us. He cared for us. I know you are hurting and sad, but this is not a time of defeat or surrender because the mission that we shared with him is still our mission."

The service ended with a video Fred Winters had made as a way to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, answering the question, "Why do you exist?". In the videotape, which had been on the church's website during the week, Winters gave the "A-B-Cs of salvation," and ended with an invitation to pray to accept Christ.

Following another presentation of the Gospel by First Church's minister of worship, Mark Jones, the service ended on what Jones called "a note of praise" as

they sang My Savior Lives.
Winters' death is the latest in a string of church attacks and fatalities over the years, some of which involved Southern Baptist churches. On September 15, 1999, Larry Gene Ashbrook entered the sanctuary of Wedgwood Church in Ft. Worth and killed seven people during a youth event. Ashbrook then killed himself.

On Easter Sunday 1978. walked into the packed sanctuary of First Church, Biloxi, with his dog and fired at an usher while making his way to the pulpit. Claiming to be Jesus Christ, the man shot the dog and then shot himself in the head. The dog survived, but the man died later that afternoon at a local hospital.



**Cindy Winters** Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives ... Machville, TN



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William H.

Perkins Jr.

Editor



Parents, here's another word you can put on your watch list: Gardasil. It's one of those manufactured jumbles that pharmaceutical companies place on new drugs coming to market.

Gardasil is the name of Merck's first-of-its-kind vaccination against certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which researchers believe are responsible for about 70% of all cervical cancers and 90% of all cases of genital warts. The federal Food and Drug Administration has approved the drug as a vaccine against those diseases, as well as certain other forms of cancer believed to be caused by HPV.

against those diseases, as well as certain other forms of cancer believed to be caused by HPV.

Sexual contact is the primary way HPV spreads, and one recent study concluded that up to 80% of American women may be exposed to the virus before their 50th birthday. Fortunately, the body's defenses usually destroy HPV, but in some women the virus takes hold and helps turns normal cervical cells into a malignancy.

Gardasil appears to be a monumental step forward in the battle against cancer — and several particularly deadly forms of cancer, to be sure—so what could possibly be controversial about the three-shot, \$360 regimen that would provide almost 100% protection against certain forms of cervical cancer and genital warts?

Merck, the drug's manufacturer and marketer, recommends administering the drug to all healthy females between the ages of nine and 26, and the younger the better because the vaccine is ineffective once a person has had sex and been infect-

ed with HPV. Merck is also studying the application of the vaccine for males who may have been infected and are spreading the disease to girls and young women.

Conservative groups are concerned, however, about administering the vaccine to children at such a young age, and the erroneous conclusions those children may draw about children may draw about promiscuous sexual behavior. The vaccine does not protect against all forms of cervical cancer, nor does it protect against other sexually-transmitted diseases such as AIDS, syphilis, and gonorrhea. Not least important,

some parents see the oncoming rush to mandate the vaccine for minors as a challenge to their right to make such decisions on behalf of their children.

With 18 states considerate.

With 18 states considering whether to mandate Gardasil for schoolgirls, the drug's manufacturer Merck is stepping up efforts to get the regimen adopted in as many locales as possible.

"I cannot think of a bigger boost (for sales of the drug)," said Steve Brozak, who analyzes the drug industry for W.B.B. Securities, in a recent Associated Press interview.

Gardasil may turn out to be a great medical advance, and one that we can all sup-

"THE MAIN THING WE ACCOMPUSHED THIS YEAR WAS WRITING A MISSION STATEMENT."

"Was that within PURPOSE STATEMEN



port in the long run — but not at the expense of steamrolling parental rights.

Well-funded and well-connected, the Merck push to adopt Gardasil will probably make its way to Mississippi once the larger states fall into line. Be prepared, and come informed to the debate.

any of us have been grieving over the tragic death of our friend and brother Fred Winters, senior pastor of First Church, Maryville, II. He was shot and killed by a lone gun-man while delivering the ser-mon at the church's early

worship service on March 8.

We began receiving calls from national news media looking for details, motives, insider commentary — things that could help make their report of the tragedy unique.

Once the reporters learned I did not witness the event or

have unreported details to offer, they moved on in pursuit of other sources. They were or other sources. They were looking for answers to the questions, "How did he die?" and, "Why did he die?" On both of those subjects I too had more questions than answers.

The day after Fred's death,

small group from the Baptist Illinois Association was traveling to Peoria to meet with associa-tional leaders there. As we drove I received a phone call that a Peoria television stasomeone who knew Fred personally, and they had heard I would be there that day.

When I returned the call, I clarified that I was not an eye-witness and did not have new information about the event.

quetres poster a sufficiency or content.



By Nate Adams **Executive Director** Illinois Baptist State Association

The editor, who I later learned is a believer, explained she did not want me to comment on Fred's death, but on his life and on what our churches are doing to help in the aftermath.

In the closing scene of the movie, The Last Samurai, young emperor Japan mourning death of mentor. samurai warrior Katsumoto. With tears in his eyes he he died in battle. "Tell me how he died," the emperor pleads, and with tears in his own eyes but a slight smile on his lips, Algren replies, 'I will tell you how he lived."

I gratefully accepted the opportunity and gladly and gladly remembered my friend Fred to them - and told their audience how he lived.

I told them Fred how the loved Lord, his famihow them mightily God him, used especially over the past 22

The second of the second

May be and

years, to shepherd a church of 30 people into to a church of 1,500.

1,500.

I told them of his passion to make Jesus known and to welcome people into the Kingdom of heaven. I told them of Fred's zeal for truth and sound doctrine. I told them how Fred led the church to aggressively witness, baptize, disciple, and give, all for God's glory.

God's glory.

I told them Fred was my friend and my brother and that I would miss him dearly.

There are many people whose job it has been these past days to ask the questions of how and why Fred died. I was grateful for at least one reporter who asked, "How did Fred live?" I was able to answer that question the same way Captain Algren did in the movie — with a tear in my eye but a faint smile on my live.

These days I am learning to bear witness to Fred's life and not just his death. In fact I'm confident that many of us who were touched by Fred's life are doing the same.

Leave it to Fred to teach us

ly, and his something, even as he departchurch. I told ed for heaven, soout how to bear witness to the Lord Jesus as well.

> Adams' commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.







How he lived

his interviews Capt. Nathan Algren (played by Tom Cruise), who was with Katsumoto when



Winters

THE BAPTIST RECORD

MARCH 19, 2009

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# Meredith to Maryville: expect 'new normal'

MARYVILLE, III. (BP) — AI redith, pastor of dgwood Church in Fort orth, where seven people re murdered by a gunman arly 10 years ago, told memors of First Church in ryville, II., on March 15 that matter how bad it gets, the

st is yet to come. Fred Winters, senior pastor First Church, Maryville, ed the previous Sunday nen a gunman entered the actuary and shot him on the atform. All week, the church is had countless opportuniss to tell a watching world aether Jesus makes a difference when life falls apart. "We've been praying for ese kinds of opportunities, it was didn't even have to doet for it. Fred would like

dget for it. Fred would like at," Meredith said, referring the pastor's well-known nchant for thriftiness, dur-cone of the morning wor-ip services March 15 where was the guest speaker. was the guest speaker. Meredith said everyone's

in is unique because every uation is unique, and the

uation is unique, and the that seven people were led at his church doesn't mimize the fact that only one ed in Maryville. "You had one, but he was ur shepherd," Meredith told e people. He said the Book of chariah and the New stament note that the emy knows if he can strike e shepherd then the sheep ill scatter. "If this church — you guys

"If this church — you guys survives, it will be the ace of God," Meredith said. ou need to know we're at ar. We are at battle, and ere are no guarantees. My vior lives, He'll always be ere for me, but almost all of have seen churches split er things like the color of e carpet or the music they ng, for crying out loud. You iys are under particular tack, and right now without particular shepherd."

Everyone in the church ust step up to the plate, he id, and God will be there for em if they'll seek Him, "but you think you're going back whatever normal was, ere's going to be a new normal and it's going to be different," he said.

Meredith pointed to

Meredith pointed to omans 15:13, which says, Now may the God of hope fill ou with all joy and peace in clieving, that you may bound in hope by the power the Holy Spirit."

People in the world are arching for hope, he said. rnest Hemingway, Marilyn plin, onroe, Janus PARKER endrix, Kurt Cobain all conuded that there was no hope nd took their own lives," leredith said, adding that the S. Department of Defense grace you're going to get

has reported that dur-ing the last two ing the American soldiers took their own lives than were killed by the enemy,

"I have come here
to be with you to let
you know there is
hope," Meredith said.
After the tragedy at
Wedgwood Church in

1999, a reporter asked Meredith whether any place in society was safe. The pastor replied that there is no safe place except in the center of God's will. Someone else asked, "Where is God in all of this?"

God is exactly where He was, on the throne of the universe, when His own dear Son was cruelly beaten and mur-dered," Meredith recounted

Maryville. "...He is in control and He is the parent that is brokenhearted and knows what it is to have a child grievously murdered. He weeps with us. He is the passionate God, and He is moved to tears by our tears. He is faithful."

The first word of Romans 15:13 answers the question of when God is going to supply hope and grace, Meredith

"Right when you need it. He's an on-time God," he said. "Some of you guys are wondering, 'I don't know how in the world I'm ever going to get through the days ahead.' God says, 'Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.' Trust Him for today.

"In fact, when it really gets rough, trust Him for the minute, then the next minute. Trust Him for the hour, then the next hour, and eventually

God didn't promise a life without trials, Meredith said, but He did promise that in the midst of the tribulation He would supply joy and peace. "God has given a sweet spirit of joy and hope to us that I'm seeing in you as well, that the world just doesn't understand. That's why they're so curious. Christians die differ-

Jesus Christ," Meredith reminded the church, and Meredith some days, like the Sunday their pastor was killed, are evil, he said. Such days will cause

"People are going to ask, 'When are you going to get over this?' You're never going to get over this, but by God's



REMEMBERING, PRAYING — Members of Wedgwood Church in Fort Worth gather early in the morning to pray for Sunday services at the church. The group is praying over a spot where students were killed by a gunman on Sept. 15, 1999. Wedgwood pastor Al Meredith spoke March 15 at First Church in Maryville, II., where a gunman killed senior pastor Fred Winters during the early worship service the week before. (BP photo)

through it," Meredith said, "and God will give you joy and peace in the midst of it, in the midst of the tears and the heartache... It is the praise you give with a broken heart that is the greatest sacrifice you can offer God."

The way to receive the joy and peace God gives is through believing Him, Meredith said. Faith is not a feeling, and nowhere in the Bible are believers command-

ed to feel anything, he said.

"Feel your feelings. I encourage you to do that in your Sunday School classes. Express them. Get them out and deal with them," Meredith said, "but believing is simply choosing to obey and trust God no matter what."

Church members Maryville can be sure of the sovereignty of God, the Texas pastor said. "God was not on vacation last Sunday morning. God is not pacing the portals of heaven wondering, Oh, what are we going to do about that Maryville situa-tion? Who was Pastor Fred's

guardian angel? Take his union card."

He was here, just as 10 years ago He was in our sanctuary.

The secular world has no hope, he said again, but Christians are people of hope. As believers, no matter how good or how bad it gets, the best is yet to come, he said, closing with a story.

"I'm like the little boy

whose daddy promised him a puppy and finally after nag-ging and nagging, months later, they went to the pet store and there were scores of puppies so cute, jumping and barking," he said.

"He couldn't make up his mind, but there was one little puppy who was wagging his tail so much you couldn't tell if the dog was wagging the tail or the tail was wagging the dog. He turned to the owner of the pet store and said, 'Mister, I want the one

with the happy ending.'
"If that's what you want for your life, then come and receive Him as Savior and Lord today," Meredith said.

# Looking back

Recent hires at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board include The biblical hope that Christians have is the "sure and certain coming of our Lord."

Keith Gordon, consultant, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department; Harvey Ellis, consultant, Discipleship and Family Ministries Department; and Beverly Parrish, associate BSU and certain coming of our Lord director, University of Mississippi.

Friends of ACTS, Inc., is unable to meet financial requirements for its proposed purchase of the ACTS network. Jimmy Allen, president of the Radio and Television Commission, had announced his intentions to resign his position and manage the ACTS network if the sale had been completed.

First Church, Columbia, signs a contract with the Marvin Polk Construction Company for the construction of their new building, in the amount of \$414,524.00.



# BAPTISTS

# THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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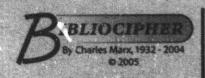
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- 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritu-



MLOTCR SDLVMUAHUM RNUVUBOVU RD XDY. VUMCMR RNU YUHCA, WKY NU JCAA BAUU BVDT SDL.

**FWTUM BDLV: MUHUK** 

Clue: S = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution.

The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ephesians Three: Six



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#### CHECK THE **DIMMER SWITCH**

The other morning I was trying to get my day started when I ran into a problem. I was up and going and thought that I felt okay, but then something happened that made me begin to wonder. I was up and stirring about an hour before sunrise. I went out and got the paper, brought it in, and sat down with a cup of coffee to see what if anything had occurred of which I was not aware, and that is when I ran into the problem. I could barely see the paper. I thought back over the night and did not remember waking up and having any kind of sensation that would indicate a stroke, pain, or any kind of problem. Squinting my eyes and trying to read the paper, I thought, "Well, maybe I grew cataracts overnight." While I had no indication of anything like that, who knows? I squinted my eyes and continued to read the best that I could. It bothered me so that I wondered if maybe the print on the paper that particular day was not good. Maybe it had not gotten a full dose of the black print on the white paper so that I could clearly see it. It did not seem to be smudged or lighter than normal, but I could not read it.

Up to that point, I was feeling okay. I did not have any symp-

normal, but I could not read it.

Up to that point, I was feeling okay. I did not have any symptoms or any other parts of my body not moving and working. I did not have any pain so I just kept on trying to push through reading the morning paper. Then almost in disgust, I thought to myself that something is not right. I got up from my chair and

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started to walk toward the kitchen where it seemed to me that the light was a lot brighter—and then it hit me. I had turned the light on but that particular light had a dimmer switch and apparently, someone had turned the switch to about one-third of its brightness. I reached over, turned the knob, and my eyes were instantaneously healed. I uaw everything better than I had seconds before. It made a world of difference. ed to walk toward the

of difference.

Light always helps the situation. When it comes to the Light of the World, the living Lord Jesus, light surely makes a difference. I thought about how many times in my life when I was struggling with a decision, an issue, or a direction, I would become frustrated and exasperated because I could not figure out what to do. I just could not see clearly the direction to go. I would wonder if something was wrong with me and my eyes were failing. Had my insight left? Had my ability to comprehend been damaged? All of those are possibilities, but oftentimes I would come

again to understand that Jesus gives His light to the situation if I will simply turn to Him. There have been times when I would simply turn to Him and say, "Lord, I cannot see or understand. I am unable to put it all together. Would you please help me?" He would turn the light on, raise the view to a totally different level, and show me the way.

We are a nation of well-educated, fairly well-read, and generally intelligent people. We more often than not think that we can find the answers to all of the problems in life. We do not need anybody else or anything else and surely, we would not stop to ask, "Lord, would you turn the light on for me?" Oftentimes we will sit in the dimness of our situation wondering what to do about the problems we we will sit in the dimness of our situation wondering what to do about the problems we are facing. We wonder how to make a decision to go this way or that way. What can we do with the children? How can I deal with this business? How can I make sense out of this marriage? How can I cope with my failing health? All of

the time Jesus stands nearby, ready and willing to turn the brilliance of His presence on the issue and help us to see.

Probably most of us have been a whole lot like Saul of Tarsus. We have run from the light only to run into the Light. It may not seem like a Damascus Road experience, but on occasion, we may be brought to a place like Paul where we are blinded so that we can see. Today, rather where we are blinded so that we can see. Today, rather than walking around in the shadows and squinting your eyes trying to see through dimness, ask Jesus to turn His light on your life and He will.

The author can be contacted at ifutral@mbcb.org.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Houston, Miss., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of studenty/associate pastor. If interested, please submit resume to randyrinehart@ilovejesus.net. aptist Church, P.O. Box 574,

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THE BAPTIST RECORD

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# Practical Principles / Christian Living



# Stem Cell Research: Hype, Hope, or Both?

b Chambers Saptist Christian Action Comm

ce President Obama's decision arch 9th to allow federal funds esearch using embryos and ronic stem cells, much has been bout the morality and ethics of ronic stem cell research (ESCR) dult stem cell research (ASCR). The scientists, researchers, activists, egislators argue that stem cell ch holds great promise to cure or realth problems. This is partially search make this claim the issue is clouded and confused. This is se the moral and ethical dilemma mbryonic stem cell research kills in life is often intentionally left out the search make this claim the issue is clouded and confused. This is se the moral and ethical dilemma mbryonic stem cell research kills in life is often intentionally left out the search conversation. The media and attes frequently bury this dilemma the words of hope, promise, and of stem cell research in general is is done because embryonic cells have not proven effective in a ANY human injury, illness, or se, but adult stem cells have. In this, promoters of ESCR wronginger that embryonic stem cells se just as effective in cures and nents as adult stem cells.

Such a sleight-of-the-hand is believed to be intentional in order to mislead and confuse the general public. The more the issue of destroying embryos for research can be cloaked under the general term of stem cell research the greater the chances of this moral problem flying under the general public's radar.

But the general public has been misled/confused long enough on this issue that now, with President Obama's recent Executive Order, taxpayer dollars are on the path to fund the killing of unborn life for embryonic stem cell research.

So what exactly is a stem cell? A human stem cell is a basic type of cell that can differentiate or turn into other types of cells. Stem cells can be found in either adults OR unborn embryos. (An embryo is a human being in early biological development.)

Embryonic stem cell research first involves killing the embryo and then harvesting the embryonic stem cells for research. Scientific study on embryonic stem cells has provided NO successful treatments or cures.

Adult stem cell research, on the other

treatments or cures.

Adult stem cell research, on the other hand, has proven effective for treating several health conditions like: leukemia, Parkinson's disease, multiple schemia.

and breast cancer. Unlike embryonic stem cell research that kills life, adult stem cell research causes no harm to the adult. Sources of adult stem cells are tissue cells from an adult's brain, bone marrow, parcreas, heart, placenta, and umbilical cord. Researchers have made significant scientific advances with adult stem cells in the last several years. As recent as this month, "Canadian researchers have discovered a new way to turn skin cells into stem cells with fewer potential risks to patients." Using the patient's own adult stem cells reduces the risk of tissue rejection as in the case with organ donation.

The problem our nation is facing is the continued degradation of the value of human life. History teaches us what happens when some human are considered more valuable than others. Slavery in the U.S. was justified because Africans were considered to be sub-human. Hitler placed Jews in the same type of category. Now our President, legislators, and other advocates consider human embryos to be sub-human or not persons.

An argument ESCR advocates use to justify killing human embryos is to assume embryos are humans but not there is a distinction between what it means to be human and what it means to a consultant with of the Christian Action Commission.

# ommentary: Stem cell decision devalues all human life

. Albert Mohler Jr., pres. ern Seminary, Louisville,

esident Barack Obama on h 9 signed an executive that reverses the Bush nistration's restrictions deral funding for research nvolves the destruction of an embryos. a White House ceremo-resident Obama said that

resident Obama said that ricans "have come to a ensus that we should ue this research; that the ntial it offers is great, and proper guidelines and oversight the perils can roided."

e president made a camn promise to take this n, but in the weeks just his inauguration he had e comments suggesting he would prefer for cress to lift the Bush

ctions by legislation. se ceremony was thor-nly orchestrated and ily orchestrated and is had advance notice as

st Friday. ne president's new policy that federal funding now go to researchers se work with human

embryonic stem cells involves the destruction of additional the destruction of additional human embryos. This represents a monumental moral shift. The United States government is now in the business of supporting the destruction of human embryos through federal funding of stem cell research.

President Obama spoke to the moral issues involved

President Obama spoke to the moral issues involved when he stated: "Many thoughtful and decent people are conflicted about, or strongly oppose, this research. I understand their concerns, and we must respect their point of view."

The president clearly does not share these concerns, and it is unclear what he means by respecting the point of view of those who rightly understand the issue as tax-supported homicide.

President Obama is now personally responsible for research that will involve the intentional destruction of

intentional destruction of human embryos. This comes even as the ideological roots of this conflict have become increasingly clear. Credible alternatives to research that would require the destruction of human embryos have



Mohler

become available, even as the most promising avenues of medical research are now using adult stem cells, which avoids the moral issues involved in the use of human embryos.

The scientific community increasingly appears to have drawn a line in the sand on this issue. The insistence that embryos must be destroyed is a matter of ideology. Some researchers seem to resist any alternative source of stem cells, no matter how great its potential.

President Obama pledged to support research "with proper guidelines and strict oversight," but his own policy removes the guidelines that protected the embryo.

When President Obama spoke of "strict oversight," he offered no assurance of what this might mean. Even more troubling, with his announcement of reversing the Bush policy the President also issued an official White House statement indicating that he statement indicating that he would shield scientific policy from political considerations

One of his most influential scientific advisors, Harold Varmus, told The Washington Post, "This is consistent with the president's determination to use sound scientific practice, responsible practice of science and evidence, instead of dogma

in developing federal policy."

The "instead of dogma" language is a direct criticism of the Bush administration policies. President Obama delivered a rebuke to the Bush administration in this new statement of policy, but the new president is either disingenuous or deceptive when he suggests that science can ever be free from political considerations.

Science does not happen in a vacuum. Scientific research takes plate in a social and political context, and when the federal government is involved through funding of that research, such research is intensely political.

Those wondering when President Obama would make a clear move on a mat-

make a clear move on a mat-ter that involves the sanctity of human life now have their answer — and its consequences. When President Obama says he will "respect" the point of view that such research is immoral, his

respect is hard to detect.

When human embryos are destroyed in the name of medical advancement, we make a deal with the culture of death and sacrifice embryonic human beings for the hope of medical advances. We all hope and pray for medical advances, and for treatments to cure or treat intractable diseases, but there are valid alternatives to the use of human embryos.

The vulnerable human embryo is now at greater risk than ever before and this, inevitably, means that every single human life is devalued by this decision.

# JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Furrs Church deacon ordianation



3. N. Carrollton Church



4. First Church, Ripley



5. Mt. Olive Church



Furrs Church, Pontotoc, ordained Carey McMullen and Roger Griffin as deacons Mar. 1. Shown are pastor Steve Cohen, McMullen, Greta McMullen, Griffin, Tammy Griffin, newly activated deacon Donnie Priest, Melissa Priest, and David Hamilton. Hamilton.

2. Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, is having a 5th Sunday night sing Mar. 29. 5 p.m., featuring Bobby and Debbie Maskew.

3. The RAs and GAs of North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton, made cupcakes for parents on Valentine's Day. Shown are the participants.

4. The Ministry Circle of First Church, Ripley, are shown with the baskets they pre-pared for local shut-ins.

5. The youth of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwin, recently participated in two mission projects during their DiscipleNow. One group visited the Baldwin Nursing Home and conducted VBS for the residents, and another group visited the shut-ins of the church. Shown are the youth.

The Simpson County association is sponsoring an annual Bible conference at First Church, Magee, Mar. 30-31, at 6:45 p.m. Speakers include Fred Wolfe, Luke 4:18 Ministries; Stan Buckley, First Church, Jackson; Danny Lanier, Northcrest Church, Meridian; and Chad Grayson. Airline Blvd. Meridian; and Chad Grayson, Airline Blvd. Church, Bossier City, La. Lavon Gray, First Church, Jackson, music. For infor-mation, call (601) 847-2642.

Salem Church, Learned, is hosting David Ring Mar. 30, 7 p.m. For information, call (601) 857-3773 or 885-6314.

The children of Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, recently raised \$1664.58 in a King and Queen contest for the organ fund. Shown are the participants.



8. Bluff Springs Church



9. First Church, Batesville

First Church, Ba'esville, recently licensed Brett Frazier, Brian Jones, and Hunter Coy to the gospel ministry. Shown, from left, are transitional pastor P.J. Scott, Frazier, Iones, and Cog. Jones, and Coy.

is sponsoring a spring youth rally, The Cure, Mar. 21, 5:30 p.m. at the Grenada High School Auditorium. Harold Danley, speaker; Well Said, music. For information, call (662) 417-2671.

Lakeshore Church, Jackson, has called the husband and wife team of Max and Carie Lyall as youth directors. Shown are the Lyalls.



1. The Lyalls

# Officials: planning key to thwarting church attacks

Church to do?

Winters, pastor of First
Church in Maryville, Il., was
preaching in the church's
early worship service that
morning when a man no one
knew walked down the aisle,
pulled out a .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun, and fatally shot Winters in the chest
before anyone could react

ly shot Winters in the chest before anyone could react.

The alleged gunman, Terry Joe Sedlacek, fired four shots at Winters before his gun jammed. The first round struck a Bible in Winters'

struck a Bible in Winters' hand, scattering the pages like confetti. Another of the rounds struck Winters in the heart.

Two male church members who attempted to subdue the gunman after his gun jammed were stabbed. Sedlacek has been charged with one count of murder and two counts of aggravated assault.

Two security officials at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky, where Winters earned a doctor of ministry degree, offered suggestions to help other congregations stay safe.

"People go to church for a couple of real good reasons," said Bob Perkins, director of safety and security for the seminary and

safety and security for the sem-inary. They want to know who God is and come to know God, out they also want to be safe," which Perkins described as a

which Perkins described as a subconscious matter that church leaders need to address.

Bob Perkins is not related to the editor of The Baptist Record, William H. Perkins Jr.

While most church crimes do not involve violence or shootings, congregations should have a plan for handling an attack

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — In light of the shooting death of Illinois pastor Fred Winters on Jarch 8, some might ask, What's a church to do?

Winters pastor of First reduce the risk of harm.

A security officer should sit in a strategic location in each service so that he can scan the service so that he can scan the crowd and spot anything out of the ordinary. The security officer should position himself between a potential shooter and the pulpit, Perkins said.

If someone approaches the platform unexpectedly during a service, the pastor should take cover, he said.

"If someone out of the blue just walks up the aisle in the middle of a service, we don't

middle of a sermon or the middle of a service, we don't know how to act," Perkins said. "Somebody has to be aware that this is the potential for a problem, and they've got to avoid that problem. Anybody is a potential victim, and they have to be ready for these types of situations."

All security planning must begin in deacons meetings, staff meetings, and other committee meetings, and other committee meetings, Perkins said. "There needs to be emergency planning," he said. "How do you exit your pulpit? Where do you go? Who gets between you and the assailant? Those types of things have to be discussed."

If a church doesn't know where to begin its security planning, Perkins and James Sharon, Southern Seminary's supervisor of safety and risk management, offered several suggestions. First, ask a local law enforcement agency to do

suggestions. First, ask a local law enforcement agency to do a security survey and suggest an emergency plan. Most police and sheriff's departments are happy to provide such services, they said.

A great way for churches to detect potential threats is to appoint a member to head up security. Often a police officer in the congregation is the ideal person for such a job, although other interested members can serve effectively as well, Sharon and Perkins said.

They recommended two

They recommended two helpful books: Ron Aguiar's Keeping Your Church Safe, and Jeffrey Hawkins' An Introduction to Security and Emergency Planning for Faith-Based Organizations.

While security planning is

While security planning is important, they reminded congregations that in almost all instances, churchgoing is a safe activity. "You're still safe to go to church," Sharon said.

"The chances of you getting killed in a car wreck going home is 100 times greater than the chances of getting shot in church Sunday morning. Always plan, but don't panic because there's a

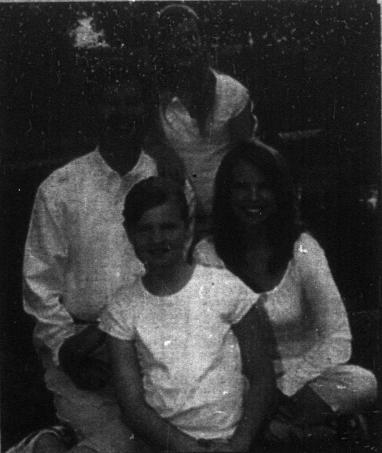
report in the paper."
Additional security steps

 Investigating all suspicious activity, including vandalism to church property and obscene or threatening phone calls, Perkins said. "You want to try to detect

and deter any type of threat before it gets into the physical phase," he said. "It doesn't depend on what size church you are, you need to be thinking about security systems. You need to be thinking about closed circuit TV and recording

things that are happening."

Cameras and security systems are affordable even for small churches, Perkins said, noting that a congregation can install a motion-sensitive closed circuit TV system for less money than they might think.



GUNNED DOWN — Fred Winters, pastor of First Church in Maryville, II., who was shot to death in the pulpit of the church during a worship service on March 8, is shown in this recent photo with wife Cindy and daughters Alysia, 14, and Cassidy, 12. (BP photo)

Because most criminal acts are carried out by people who have previous contact with a church, cameras can deter criminals from coming back for a violent attack or burglary.

Anyone who threatens a church or spends time on the church property without attending church activities should be reported to security or law enforcement officials,

 Keeping a record of all incoming phone calls. A digital phone system that automatically records callers' identity is particularly helpful, Perkins said.

"There's a term that's always kicked around in law enforcement: situational awareness, Sharon added. "You need to be aware. It's amazing, when you go back in crimes we've worked, how many times there's a hint before a crime."

# Miss. Baptist African-American Fellowship Task Force meets

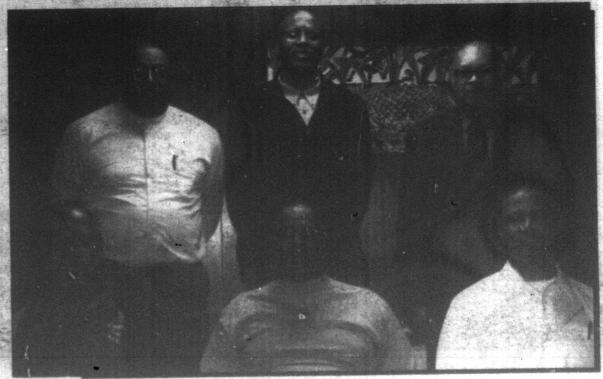
The Task Force for the Mississippi Baptist African American Fellowship, representing the 40 African American churches affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), met recently at Lake Tiak O'Khata outside Louisville for a special planning session.

Among the items discussed for consideration by the Fellowship's churches were the Black Church Leadership and Family Conference July 20-24 at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina; a mission construction project on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; regional pastor's fellowships, and a proposed Church Growth Retreat in October.

The purposes of the Fellowship are to improve communication among black church leaders across the state, encourage ministry skill development, and strengthen MBC African-American church multiplication efforts.

The Task Force seeks to encourage existing churches and reach out to the 1.3 million African-Americans in the state, Regional leaders are (back row, from left) Robert Washington, pastor of Oak Forest New Beginnings Church in Jackson; Lowell Walker, chairman and pastor of Mount Sinai Church in Tupelo; John Wesley Jones, pastor of New Hone Church in McCorch, (front Wesley Jones, pastor of New Hope Church in McComb; (front row, from left) Eddie Jones, pastor at Mission First in Jackson, Rossi Francis, pastor of Grace Temple Church in Gulfport; and Larry Young, pastor of Spangle Banner Church in Pace.

Any of the leaders can be contacted for more information about the Mississippi Baptist African American Fellowship. Chairman Lowell Walker said, "We believe it's time for a new day to be serious about working together for Jesus in Mississippi."



# President OKs stem cell research, clouds cloning issue

WASHINGTON (BI') —
When President Barack Obama signed an executive order overturning the Bush-era restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, he went out of his way to state he was firmly opposed to human cloning — or at least it appeared that way.

Referring to the lifting of the ban on federal funding for stem cell research, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptict Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, said, "This is a sadday for the sanctity of all human life in America."

The president, he observed, "has declared open season on unborn babies, allowing them to be destroyed for the sole purpose of harvesting their embryonic cells and tissues in the hopes of discovering treatments for maladies and diseases affecting older and bigger human beings.

"President Obama's authorization of federal funding of this research has the double effect of greatly increasing the mumber of babies killed and requiring tens of millions of Americans who find such research morally reprehensible to be forced to subsidize it through the use of their tax

no such research morally repre-nsible to be forced to subsidize through the use of their tax

dollars.

"Many supporters of the president's decision have erroneously hailed this as removing politics and ideology from science." he said. "In fact, it is an attempt to remove morality from scientific research. History, from the Third Reich and elsewhere, teaches us such a shift is a steep and slippery slope to a dark, depraved and dangerous destination."

In a carefully crafted statement March 9, Obama said "we will ensure that our government."

will ensure that our government

never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduc-tion," which he called "danger-ous," "profoundly wrong," and which "has no place in our society or any society."
What Obama did not say is

What Obama did not say is that there are two types of cloning, and his statement referenced only one of them. Obama ruled out reproductive cloning but appeared to leave room for therapeutic or research cloning, which involves cloning an embryo in order to harvest its stem cells.

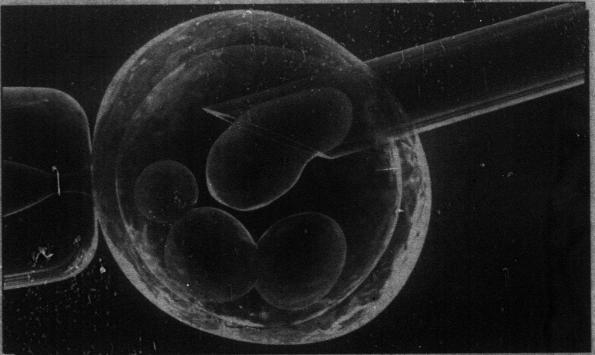
Because it necessarily

Because it necessarily involves the destruction of an research has often been called "cloning and killing" by opponents. Supporters sometimes play word games and call therapeutic cloning "somatic cell nuclear transfer," but that simply is the scientific name for embryo cloning.

simply is the scientific name for embryo cloning.

"I think [Obama] left the door wide open," David Prentice, senior fellow for life sciences at the Family Research Council, told Baptist Press. "If you read specifically what he said, he said he was opposed to cloning for human reproduction. What that means is he's just fine with cloning of human embryos for experiments. just fine with cloning of human embryos for experiments. ...He's left this wide open, not just for cloning but for anything that you might want to do—animal-human hybrids or any of these types of experiments."

If Prentice is right, taxpayers in the near future could be financing not only embryonic stem cell research but also research involving stem cells derived from cloned embryos, Currently, both types of cloning are legal in the United



States. When Obama was a Democrat U.S. senator from Illinois, he was a co-sponsor of a 2005 bill that would have banned only reproductive cloning. He did not however, sign on to a bill sponsored by Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of Oklahoma that would have banned both reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning.

The bill that Obama co-sponsored defined cloning as "implanting or attempting to implant" an embryo "into a uterus or the functional equivalent of a uterus."

equivalent of a uterus."

Therapeutic cloning may sound far-fetched to the aversound far-fetched to the average American, but it is supported by the National Academy of Sciences, which for years was critical of the Bush policy and applauded Obama's executive order. The academy's president, in fact, attended the signing ceremony. Scientists who back therapeutic cloning say it is needed

eutic cloning say it is needed for two reasons:

There may not be an adequate supply of "extra" embryos in fertility clinics.
 Cloring allows scientists to provide a genetic match to a patient.

Opponents answer the second objection by pointing to an ethical alternative — induced pluriponent stem cell research (iPS) - which has been able to turn adult skin cells into embryonic-like stem cells with a genetic match to the patient.

In fact, a March 6 report in the journal Cell showed that scientists were able to make iPS cells from Parkinson's dis-ease patients. iPS does not

ease patients. iPS does not involve embryos.

"When the president speaks of 'reproduction,' he means a born baby," author and ethicist Welsey J. Smith wrote on his blog. Smith predicted that Obama would sign a bill explicitly supporting therapeutic cloning. "President Obama and the rest of the brave new world crowd will redefine — or better stated, misdefine — cloning and outlaw their straw man so they can pretend that cloning has been made illegal when it has been explicitly legalized on the way toward federal funding."

The only thing preventing direct federal funding of cloning is what is known as the Dickey Wicker Amendment, a congression

Wicker Amendment, a congressional amendment that must be renewed yearly and which prevents federal funds from being used not only for destroying an embryo but also for creating an

embryo for research purposes.

Prentice, though, believes
the National Institutes of
Health (NIH) — which Obama gave 120 days to submit guide-lines for stem cell research — can easily get around the Dickey Amendment.

"As long as they did the cre-ation of the clone with private funds and killed them with pri-

vate funds, NIH could proba-bly fund the embryonic stem

cells from the clone or from the hybrid, because that's the basic

hybrid, because that's the basic interpretation now of what this new presidential executive order says," he said. "There are no sorts of restrictions on when the embryo was made, where it was made, how it was made."

Said C. Ben Mitchell, a bioethics professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in suburban Chicago and a consultant for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission: "Researchers receiving federal funds are very adept at gam-

"Researchers receiving federal funds are very adept at gaming the system. They will find every loophole possible."

If the Dickey amendment is reversed, federal dollars could go directly toward funding embryo cloning. The New York Times argued for reversal of the Dickey amendment in a March 10 editorial and also backed therapeutic cloning — without

therapeutic cloning — without using the word "cloning." "Until that changes, scien-tists who want to create embryos — and extract stem cells — matched to patients with specific diseases will have to rely on private or state sup-port," the editorial read. ...Congress should follow Mr. Obama's lead and lift this prohibition so such important work can benefit from an infusion of federal dollars.

Prentice expressed concern that NIH is setting the guide-lines. "It's the fox guarding the henhouse. The scientists are going to set their own limits. I don't know if self-regulation is a good idea for any group, but certainly not for this bunch."

Some also are concerned that the NIH — if it backs research on cloned embryos will avoid the term "cloning" and instead will use the procedure's scientific name. A stem cell glossary on the NIH web-site still defines somatic cell nuclear transfer in this way: "See also therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning."

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MARCH 1

# Stem cell funding approval leads to public curiosity

WASHINGTON (BP) — resident Obama's executive resident Obama's executive order March 9 will drastically expand the federal government's role in embryonic stem rell research (see article on page eight). Following is a list of frequently asked questions, along with answers, about stem cells.

#### What are stem cells?

Stem cells are the body's master cells from which all cells and tissues are formed. Because some types of stem cells in theory can develop into any type of tissue, they seemingly hold the promise to cure diseases and other ailments.

#### • Where are stem cells found?

Generally, in two sources: 1) throughout the human body, such as in skin cells, and 2) in embryos. Stem cells found in the numan body are referred to as 'adult stem cells," while stem

cells in the second category are known as "embryonic stem cells."

Adult stem cell research — which even has involved stem cells from umbilical cord blood — is harmless and is not controversial. Embryonic stem cell research, though, requires the destruction of embryos and is very contro-versial. President Obama's executive order pertained pri-marily to this second category.

#### What did President Obama's executive order do?

Obama's order overturned President Bush's stem cell limits, which had prohibited federal funds from being used for conducting research on embryonic stem cell lines created after Aug. 9, 2001 (the date of Bush). Bush's Obama's order allows taxpayer dollars to be used for funding research on hundreds of other embryonic stem cell lines. Technically, under Obama's

order researchers won't be allowed to use federal funds to embryos. Congressional amendment known as the Dickey-Wicker Amendment prevents federally

funding the destruction of embryos.) Researchers will, though, be able to conduct federally funded research on stem cells that were taken from embryos destroyed in the private sector.

Critics say Obama's order—while not directly funding it—will encourage the destruction of more embryos.

# • Was embryonic stem cell research banned prior to Obama's order?

No. All embryonic stem cell research has been legal in the private sector, and some of it (see above) already was receiving federal funding.

# • Didn't Obama say he was opposed to human cloning?

Not really. Obama appeared to rule out human cloning in his statement, but he also issued a qualifier. He said, "We will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction." Obama apparently is opposed to reproductive cloning — that is, the actual cloning of a person whereby a baby is bom — but he is leaving the door open for federal funds being used for therapeutic cloning, which is the cloning of an embryo in order to harvest its stem cells.

In other words, he may be

In other words, he may be for cloning, as long as the cloned embryo is destroyed. Opponents call it "cloning and killing." The same laboratory procedure — known as somatic cell nuclear transfer — is used for both types of cloning. The only difference between the two types is what is done with the embryo once it is cloned.

# • Why do some people oppose embryonic stem cell

For three basic reasons: 1) it requires the destruction of embryos, tiny human beings, 2) adult stem cell research, thus far, has had more success, and 3) a new form of stem cell research known as "induced pluripotent" stem cell research could provide embryonic-like

stem cells without the ethical stem cells without the ethical dilemma. Some opponents of embryonic stem cell research also say the "extra" embryos — which often are donated by fertility clinics — should instead be given a chance to be adopted in "snowflake" embryo adoption programs, whereby they would be implanted in a woman and grow into a baby. woman and grow into a baby.

#### · What are induced pluripotent stem cell 3?

Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) are a new form of stem cells where cy scientists reprogram adult skin cells into embryonic like stem cells — and thus provide scientists with the stem cells they desire without the need to destroy embryos. Embryos are not destroyed or created during the process.

The i''s stem cells were introduced to the world during a breakt trough announcement in 2007, and on March 2 of this year scientists announced they

year scientists announced they had found a better way to make them that would be safer for patients. One scientist involved in the March 2 announcement said iPS stem cells perhaps could eliminate "the need for human embryos as a source of stem cells."

### · What does "pluripotent"

The term "pluripotent" means the stem cells theoretically can morph into any of the body's issues. Embryonic stem-cells also are pluripotent. By contrast, adult stem cells are "multipotent," meaning they can morph into many, though not all, of the body's cell types. iPS stem cells would have an advantage over embryonic stem cells in that they would already have the patient's own DNA — because the patient's skin cell was used to make them. They would, then, be less likely to be

rejected by the patient's body.

There have yet to be any human trials using iPS stem cells.

· If induced pluripotent stem cell research shows so much progress, then why do

scientists support embryonic stem cell research?

Scientists who back research involving embryos say they are excited about the potential of iPS research but want both types to be funded to determine which one is more successful.

# "Has embryonic stem cell research in the private sector found any cures?

No. Scientists have struggled

No. Scientists have struggled to control embryonic stem cells in the lab. Often, experiments involving such stem cells in animals have led to tumors.

Bernadine Healy, the head of the National Institutes of Health under the first President Bush, wrote in a March 4 column for U.S. News & World Report that U.S. News & World Report that "several events" since Obama took office have "reinforced the notion that embryonic stem cells, once thought to hold the cure for Alzheimer's,

Parkinson's, and diabetes, are obsolete." She pointed in part to the iPS breakthrough.

#### · Has adult stem cell research led to any cures?

Although scientists who work with adult stem cell research probably wouldn't use the word cure," they have seen adult stem cells do wonders in specific patients. One organization that keeps track of such advances — known as Do No Harm — says adult stem cells have treated 73 different ailments, including dia-betes and leukemia.

In fact, most of the attentiongrabbing headlines relating to advances in stem cell research involve adult stem cells, not embryonic stem cells.

• How long will it take scientists to find cures involving embryanic stem cells?

Likely is years away, at best.

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#### Registration deadline extended through March.

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Call for info or itineraries and meet us at Sr. Adult rallies, and retreats in your area.

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#### REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

- Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal: Homecoming, Mar. 29; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner; Keith Thompson, speaker; Mickey Steele, pastor.
- Tuscola Church, Leake Association: Revival, Mar. 22 25; Sun., 11 a.m., fol-lowed by covered dish lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; David Addy, speaker; Craig Stevens, music; Smith Sanders, pas-
- Holly Springs Church, Corinth: Revival, Mar. 29 Apr. 1; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed Newton, speaker; John Boler, pastor.
- Southside Church, Vicksburg: Revival, Mar. 29 - Apr. 3; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Savell, speaker; Ronnie Lacaze, music.
- First Church, Houlka: Revival, Mar. 29 -Apr. 1; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. -Wed., 7 p.m.; Daniel Heeringa, speaker; Kenny Adams, music.
- Crowder Church, Crowder: Homecoming, Apr. 26, 10:30 a.m.; Kelly Mitchell, speaker; Dave Tribble, music.
- New Life Fellowship, Oakland: Revival, Mar. 22 25; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Pinkerton,



BRUARY 15 - 28, 2009 HONORS

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TE L SSC, PBC-Magor
Mes. Elizabeth Curlee
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rose Williamson Priscilla SSC, FBC-Vicksburg Winstead Harry Lott's SSC, Holcomb BC

MEMORIAL CORRECTION:



Melissa at student at Northwest Rankin High School recently vol-unteered 25 hours in the administration office of The Baptist Children's Village as a part of her senior project.

#### **BCV Replaces Campbell's Labels for Education Project**

The Baptist Children's Village will no longer be seeking Campbell's Labels as a part of the Labels for Education Program. We will instead turn our attention to a recycle program that allows individuals, groups or companies to collect used ink cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones and accessories, i-pods, laptops, and game systems, and redeem them for cash for their favorite charity—that's us.

Many of you use ink cartridges in your printers at home or at your business and just throw them away. This program provides a way to protect the environment and turn those discards into cash for The Baptist Children's Village. We use two companies—Recycle 4 Charity and Recycle First. Both of them will provide labels that you can attach to a box of recyclables. Either UPS or FedEx can pick up the boxes and it does not cost you or us anything. The labels (that we can provide for you) tell the company to designate the recycle dollars to The BCV. If you want more information about these companies you can explore their web sites at www.recycle4charity.com or www.recyclefirst.com. Please contact the for more information about how to organize a recycle project for your group and to request your mailing your labels. cle project for your group and to request your mailing your labels.

We have been very encouraged by the response of people to the Labels for Education program. Thank you for the time you have invested to help make this a productive project on our behalf. Through this program The BCV has been able to fill several needs within the ministry. As we make the choice to suspend this partnership, we will trust the Lord, and His people, to continue to provide for our needs in other ways. We are hopeful that this new recycling project will be just as successful. We covet your prayers for this ministry, and our attempts to be good stewards of all our resources, and to be a ministry that honors our Lord in the work we do.

We will continue receiving Campbell's Labels through the end of March.

#### HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED

The Baptist Children's Village has an opening for a Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife team without dependent children to serve in the position of relief houseparents.

Houseparents receive an excellent salary with benefits and work a 10 day on 5 day off work schedule. All qualified candidates must be at least 25 years of age, have a high energy level, excellent driving record and no criminal history. They

ren (parrychalter and parent parent and the contraction of the contrac

also must have a high school education or GED. A private bedroom and meals are included while on duty.

For more information and to request an application please call 601-664-8085



BIBI

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Nehemiah with their

complaint, he listened carefully to them. This is a valuable lesson for

each of us. Like Nehemiah, we need to

be attentive and

# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Clear the Air

Nehemiah 5:1-16

**Arthur Story** 

This week's study of This week's study of hemiah moves from a focus external threats and rebuild-the wall to focusing on an ernal threat. Nehemiah had coessfully led the people up this point because he had ediently followed God. This is the people to bring a new up to his attention. In the det of the reconstruction of dst of the reconstruction of a wall the people cried out to themiah. Their cry wasn't a mplaint about their enemies, a work, the famine, etc. It is a complaint against their low Jews and their injustice ward others. Nehemiah's

ward others. Nehemiah's sponse to this complaint prodes us with three basic guidenes to acting with justice.

Hear the Hurt
(Neh. 5:1-5)

For most people, the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall had come an all encompassing come an all encompassing

endeavor. The people had to pour much time and effort into its con-

and effort into its con-struction. The people had even been called upon by Nehemiah to remain in the city to stand guard at night and work in the day (Neh. 4:22) rather than return to their homes. The combination of the exter-nal threats, the rebuilding of the wall, and the opportunistic mindset of some had caused sig-nificant economic pressure for the people. It was so much presthe people. It was so much pres-sure that some of them resorted sure that some of them resorted to drastic measures to meet their needs. People bought grain rather than producing grain. Others borrowed against their property to purchase grain. Others borrowed to pay taxes on their property. Finally, some sold their sons and daughters into slavery. Tragically, this economic exploitation wasn't coming from outsiders but from other Jews.

When the people came to



respond to other's needs even in the midst

needs even in the midst of serving God in critical areas of work. We need to listen to these people that are hurting and give them the opportunity to express their problems without interruption.

Confront the Wrong
(Neh. 5:6-9)

Nehemiah became angry after hearing about the situation of economic oppression described by the people. Rather than immediately responding to the complaint, he took time to consider the matter. Then he took the matter up with the took the matter up with the nobles and officials who were nobles and officials who were financially exploiting their fellow Jews. Since nobles and officials weren't initially responsive or repentant, Nehemiah took them before the people.

In front of everyone, Nehemiah corrected and instructed the nobles, officials, and anyone that might be tempt-

ed to follow their example. He pointed out that this opportunistic approach to building wealth wasn't right. He focused them on their accountability to God. It is a fearful thing to be corrected in public, but Nehemiah reminded the nobles and officials that they should fear God who is watching all. Finally, he pointed out to the people that such practices weren't only wrong and hurtful to others and the community, but they brought the ed to follow their example. He nity, but they brought the reproach of outsiders.

The unfolding of these events and Nehemiah's handling of them should lead us to think of Matthew 18:15-20. Like Nehemiah, when a wrong becomes known we need to do what is necessary to correct it. We need to start on a personal level. Then take witnesses. Then take it before the church. Each of

take it before the church. Each of us must be willing to confront revealed wrongs and do what God says to correct them.

Set the Example
(Neh. 5:10-16)

Nehemiah willingly took the hardest step in serving God and leading others. He identified his own involvement in the wrong. He indicated that he too was

guilty of doing the things that were causing the problem. He then gave instructions to the peo-ple on what needed to be done to

correct the situation.

In front of the assembly, the nobles and officials committed to do as Nehemiah had instructed.

Nehemiah then led everyone to commit to refrain from engaging in such practices again. In addition, Nehemiah provided an excellent model for the people as their governor by refusing to follow the practices of his predecessors and take from the people for his own benefit. In contrast to many of the career politicians. many of the career politicians and community leaders of our day, Nehemiah clearly understood his responsibility to God and the service of others.

If we're going to make an impact by acting with justice as Nehemiah modeled for us, we need to hear people's hurts, correct the wrongs that are taking place, and set the example for others. Are you up to the deal others. Are you up to the chal-lenge to serving God by treating others fairly and protecting

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Follow the Lord's Will

Isaiah 29:13-16; 30:1-3; 15-18

Beth S. Bowman

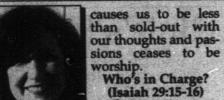
One of my best friends, arol, has a daughter named atie. When Katie was bunger, one of her favorite pressions when challenged do something was, "Are you e boss of me?" As a friend, it as funny to hear her chal-nge her parental authority. er parents had quite a differ-it reaction to Katie's verbal bellion. I know that God has perienced that same rebellion om me as my attitude and tions have reflected the same ought as Katie; "Are you the oss of me?" Today's lesson ustrates Judah's continuing bellion to listen to God's mes-ige through Isaiah and their rusal to acknowledge Him as what is Worship? (Isaiah 29:13-14)

In Chapter 29, Isaiah begins

Jerusalem and its enemies. In the middle of this chapter, we read of dire warnings for believers about worship. Their so-called worship was characterized by empty words upper

terized by empty words, unre-sponsive hearts and outward expressions learned through expressions learned through repetition. God's response to this empty worship was to confuse their thinking and understanding of Him. John 4:24 (NASB) states, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Worship is placing our minds' attention and our hearts' affection on God. Worship is not three hymns, a Worship is not three hymns, a special solo and thirty-minute sermon. Neither is it a live band, creative drama and a video-driven message. If our focus is on tradition or our (Isaiah 29:13-14)

energy is centered on being In a society that placed great value on children obeygiving his judgment on be worship. Anything that ing their parents, we find that like a pole on a mountaintop. The allies would flee at the first sign of trouble and leave Connection, First Church, Brandon.



There is expression

that

states, "There is a God and you are not Him." These verses do a good job of reminding us that we are not the all knowing, all present, and all pow-erful Creator of the Universe. The ancient Israelite skeptics were famous for trying to hide things from God. Anytime we try to play God or hide our decisions we will end up learning hard lessons about our Maker. Discerning God's will means loosing the illusion that we know what is best for our lives. It means giving up control to the One who is actually in control of our lives. We're simply not

> Who Knows Best? (Isaiah 30:1-3)

Iudah has done the exact opposite. Rather than depending on God's word from Isaiah, we see again where they are trusting in another. In this case, it is a political alliance with Egypt. The great historical event of the defeat of the Assyrian army recorded in Isaiah 36-37 is predicted in these chapters in great detail. God clearly warns them in Isaiah 30:3 that Pharaoh's protection will become their shame and refuge in Egypt's shadow their disgrace. Putting our faith in others as opposed to seeking God's direction will always result in less than God's best for us.

What Should We Do? (Isaiah 30:15-18)

Judah persistently put their trust in political allies and political savvy to determine its future. Judah still wanted a military cavalry like Egypt and the Assyrians. If they chose these allies over God, the prophet predicted that at the end of the continuing battles they would be alone and left

Judah without any defense.

In verses 15 and again in 18, Isaiah reminds them of the mercy that God is anxious to show to them. God's mercy and help await those who relinquish control and rely on Him. I love the clarity in verse 18, "Therefore the Lord is waiting to show you mercy and is rising up to show you compassion." Those verses show a proactive God who just can't wait to pour out His love, mercy and compassion on the children He loves.

It's easy to act as if Isaiah's message was for a rebellious, head-strong, and selfish group of people that we have never met. It would be pain-less to study this lesson and never dig deeper to apply it to out lives. But wisdom compels us to do otherwise-and being Christ-followers demands us to pay attention to how we are living and release our attitudes, thoughts, and our will to His control. We each need to learn we're not the boss.

Bowman is Minister of

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events hat take place in cooperating churches of he Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Saptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be conlained in the message segment of an email form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white, instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail. (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No land-scape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. s items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

# GuideStone's Hawkins pushes 'proper perspective'

DALLAS (BP) — Continued volatility in the nation's financial markets reminds all of us that we need to have

in the nation's financial markets "reminds all of us that we need to have a proper perspective in times of uncertainty," GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins told trustees during their recent meeting in Dallas.

Hawkins cited Habakkuk 2.3 in ine Old Testament, which says, "Though the vision tarries, wait for it, it will surely come."

"In times of uncertainty," Hawkins said, "we can give up, give in, or give out. However, through the power of God's leadership we must reach up seeking His guidance. We must reach up seeking His guidance. We must reach in to fine-tune our processes and make the most of the resources that we have and we must reach out to our participants in helping them to also gain a proper perspective as they navigate these tumultuous times of financial crisis."

John R. Jones, GuideStone's chief operating officer, updated trustees on the program areas of the Southern Baptist entity (retirement, investments, insurance, and financial assistance).

"In a year of significant financial markets volatility, GuideStone Funds continued to perform very well compared to its mutual fund peers," Jones said. "For the five-year period ending Dec. 31, 2008, six of nine [GuideStone] Select Funds in the GS2 class exceeded their respective mutual fund peer universe median as measured by the Lipper Ranking."

Lipper Inc., a Reuters company, is a nationally recognized organization that compares the total return performance among mutual funds having similar investment objectives. (Share classes such as GS2 are defined in the prospectus of each fund and largely relate to eligibility of participants and fund size. Two of GuideStone's Select Funds are not part of the GS2 share class, the Global Bond and the Real Estate Securities funds because they are not part of the Lipper Rankings).

"In addition, GuideStone Funds ranked 92 out of 226 mutual fund

ranked 92 out of 226 mutual fund families in the most recent Fund Family Fiduciary Rankings prepared by fi360," Jones said. This report ranks mutual fund families based on the percentage of their individual funds that pass fi360's due diligence screens. These screens include the fund's track record.

These screens include the fund's track record, assets, management tenure, style consistency, expense ratio, risk adjusted performance, and performance relative to their peer group, among other criteria.

Jones also reported, "Even during a very difficult period of time, we saw an increase in the number of active retirement plan participants." GuideStone now has more than 97,000 active participants in its various retirement plans. Total retirement plan participants active and inactive now total more than 153,000.

Turning to GuideStone's medical plans, Jones reported that in 2008 net enrollment increased by 3.9%. "During this difficult time we continued to experience growth in both our personal and group programs," he said.

In the financial assistance area, Jones reported good news concerning generous responses by individuals and churches that support the Mission:Dignity financial assistance program. Total gifts for 2008 exceeded \$6.12 millioin, the most ever received in one year.

"This was our first full year of no Cooperative Program distributions," Jones reminded trustees. GuideStone released its CP allocation back to the Southern Baptist Convention, effective September 2007, to be used for SBC national and international missions and ministries.

"We believe the re-branding of our financial assistance program from Adopt An Annuitant to Mission:Dignity has resulted in heightened awareness of this important program," Jones added. The Mission:Dignity program provides financial assistance to more than 2,050 retired ministers or their widows in crucial financial need.

Reporting on GuideStone's launch cial financial need.

Reporting on GuideStone's launch of property and casualty insurance for churches and ministry organizations last fall, Jones said the new program "offers a competitive property and casualty program that provides risk

management programs for churches and may provide the opportunity to reclaim dollars for ministry that have been lost to for-profit insurers."

The trustees' relief committee affirmed the addition of 34 new applicants in the fourth quarter. Eight applications were approved for grants and one application was approved for a one-time emergency grant.

Trustees accepted the recommendation of their general officers nominating committee and elected Timothy E. Head of South Carolina as chairman and Harold D. Vick of Florida as vice chairman.

At the Monday evening dinner

D. Vick of Florida as vice chairman.

At the Monday evening dinner meeting, eight trustees were honored as they reached the end of their terms of service: Oliver Allred, New Mexico; G. Robert Benson, Missouri; Robert W. Boyles, West Virginia; W. Randy Chestnut, Ohio; Ronnie W. Floyd, Arkansas; Phillip D. Koos Jr., Pennsylvania-South Jersey; and Danny E. Watters, Georgia.

Information concerning Mission: Dignity may be requested by

Mission:Dignity may be requested by calling GuideStone at (888) 98-GUIDE – (888) 984-8433 – or by sending an e-mail to MissionDignity@GuideStone.org.

Information about GuideStone's prop-

erty and casualty program may be accessed online at www.GuideStonePropertyCasualty.org or by calling (877) 455-GSPC - (877) 455-4772.

#### born alive Arrest made in abortion clinic's handling of baby

MIANI (BP) — A Florida MIANI (BP) — A Florida woman has been arrested for her role in a shocking botched abortion case that has garnered national attention, although she was not charged with murder as some were wanting.

Belkis Gonzalez, 43, was charged with tampering with evidence and unlicensed practice of a health-care profession resulting in serious hodily.

evidence and unlicensed practice of a health-care profession resulting in serious bodily injury for her role in a 2006 abortion at a Hialeah, Fla., abortion clinic she owns. Both are felony charges and could result in up to 15 years in prison.

According to the warrant, Gonzalez took matters into her own hands when then-18-year-old Sycloria Williams — who was waiting for the doctor to

was waiting for the doctor to arrive — delivered a live baby girl in the clinic. With the doctor still not at the clinic, Gonzalez "came into the room, cut the umbilical cord, swept the infant into a trash can with a red bag along with the gauze used during the procedure, and took the bag out of the room," the warrant states.

Gonzalez then hid the body for a week until police were able to find it. By then it had begun decomposing the warrant states. Prior to the botched abor-

tion, the clinic had estimated tion, the clinic had estimated the gestational age of the baby to be 23.5 weeks. A medical doctor told the office of Miami Dade State Attorney Katherine Ferr.andez — who filed the charges — that he would put the age of the baby at 21.5 weeks.

Whatever the case, the baby may have survived if given proper medical treatment. A

proper medical treatment. A baby born in 2007 just prior to 22 weeks at Baptist Children's Hospital in Miami survived

and went home after a nearly four-month stay. Quadruplets in Nebraska born at 23 weeks last year survived.

Williams, who now regrets the abortion, has filed a wrongful death and medical people group of the state of the state

negligence civil suit against Gonzalez and the clinic. She claims she saw the baby - who she named Shanice -

who she named Shanice — gasping for air before Gonzalez came in the room.

Williams is being represented by the Thomas More Society.

"We welcome the fact that after two and a half years the Dade County prosecutor has seen fit to bring criminal charges, but we're absolutely outraged that there is no homicide charge," Tom Brejcha, president and chief counsel of the Thomas More Society, told Baptist Press. "It's Society, told Baptist Press. "It's absolutely clear that the child was born alive and then steps were taken to kill that child."

The medical doctor who gave the state attorney a gesta-tional age also told the state that while he believed the baby girl was not viable, she nonetheless was born alive, the warrant states.

The medical examiner who had conducted an autopsy could not determine if the baby was born alive. The examiner, though, did issue a birth certificate, saying that nothing in the refuted vyimams claum

that the baby was moving.
"What is extraordinarily irritating about this case is the way Gonzalez jeopardized any legitimate analysis by tampering with the evidence," Rundle said, according to The Miami Herald.

Rundle filed the charges following an investigation span-

ning two and a half years. In ning two and a half years. In recent days House Republicans had sent a letter to Rundle expressing their outrage at Gonzalez's actions. Breicha criticized Rundle for not filing homicide charges.

"The prosecutor has fudged the line between legal abortion horrific as that is

fudged the line between legal abortion, horrific as that is, and infanticide," Breicha said. "There was eyewitness testimony that the baby was born alive, including testimony on the part of those working in the abortion facility."

The botched abortion took place in July 2006 and was

intended to be a two-part process. Williams went to a Miami abortion clinic, where Miami abortion clinic, where the doctor, Pierre Jean-Jacque Renelique, began part one of the procedure by inserting laminaria sticks to dilate her cervix and giving her a prescription of Cytotec to take later that night to begin inducing labor, the civil suit states.

She was told to come back the next day to a different

the next day to a different clinic in Hialeah, just outside of Miami.

Williams arrived at that clin-ic the next day, but Renelique didn't show up, at least not on

time. After waiting about two hours for the doctor to arrive, Williams began feeling nauseated and was placed in a patient waiting room, given a robe and told to lie down. At around 2 o'clock that day — and with Renelique still not at the clinic and no one in the room —

Renelique still not at the clinic and no one in the room — Williams felt an immense pain and delivered a baby girl.

The staff began screaming "and pandemonium ensued," and Williams "watched in horror and shock as her baby writhed with her chest rising and falling as she breathed," the suit states.

# Most parents willing to allow children to attend church with trusted neighbor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Most American parents would let their children attend church with trusted neighbors, according to a survey by LifeWay Research. The study explored how many parents were open to their children attending if they didn't have to be the ones to take them to church, "Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, said in LifeWay Research Insights' Feb. 23 newsletter. The study found that 76% of parents agreed with the statement, "If a neighbor I trusted invited my children to go to church with them, I would let my child go with them."

"The jump is sizeable yet not unexpected," McConnell said. "Similar to Romans 1.21, many American parents know God but do not glorify

American parents know God but do not glorify Him. As they express openness to their children knowing God, the opportunity for these children to attend a Bible-believing church rests with every believer who does glorify God."

Mothers are more likely than fathers to let their children attend church with neighbors, the

study found, and race is among the factors that make the greatest difference in parents' willing-ness to send their children to church with neigh-

bors. African Americans were more willing than whites or Hispanics to agree to the offer.

Also, LifeWay Research found that parents in the Midwest are more open to their children attending church with neighbors than in any other region. Single parents are more willing than those who are married, although age and education seem to have little effect on parents willingness to send children to church with a trusted neighbor, the study indicated.

"In a culture that struggles to learn the names of their neighbors, the benefit of loving one's neighbor clearly applies to families," McConnell said. "With intentional involvement in our neighborhood, we can glorify God in word and deed in regular interactions with our neighbors.

"As relationships develop, our neighborhood friends will be increasingly comfortable having their children attend church with us," he said. "With spring around the corner, we all need to make plans to get out in our neighborhoods and meet some new friends."

LifeWay Research is a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.